one or more exponentiation tasks. These exponentiation tasks are transferred to one or more execution units that perform the exponentiation and return a value to the processor (see column 2, lines 37-47). The Collins reference also teaches that an external memory holds a program file along with header information, a hash value, and a digital signature in an encrypted program packet. A first program file contains a key holding in a cryptographic public key. A processor loads the encrypted program packet and decrypts it using a cryptographic key. The resulting program file is only executed by the processor after authenticating it. If the program file cannot be authenticated, then the cryptographic keys are zeroed out and the cryptographic system is put into a non-functioning state. If the first program file is authenticated, the processor executes a first program file and the first program file loads a second program file from external memory. The second program file is typically a user application program. The second program is authenticated in a similar manner to the first program file but the digital signature is checked against the public key found in the key table. Hence, a program may be downloaded to a computer if it is correctly authenticated based on a public key cryptography approach.

The Collins reference does not appear to teach or suggest, among other things, storing inquiry data to facilitate entry of shared authentication data for initialization or retrieving the stored inquiry data for presentation based on received entity identification data. In fact, it appears that no inquiry data to facilitate entry of shared authentication data or retrieving stored inquiry data for presentation is contemplated by the Collins system. For example, Applicants claim, among other things, that the inquiry data may be, but is not limited to, data representing questions or forms containing questions to facilitate entry of shared authentication data for initialization. The storing the retrieving of such data in combination with the other steps are not

2

taught by the Collins reference. Accordingly, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

As to claim 3, the office action cites column 2, line 48 to column 3, line 13 and column 8, line 12 to column 11, line 23. However, Applicants are not able to find reference to, among other things, the stored inquiry data for presentation to a user, based on obtained stored shared authentication type data. If the rejection is maintained, Applicants respectfully request a support for such a teaching in the cited reference.

As to claim 4, the cited portion of the reference appears to be directed towards the data encryption standard and does not appear to describe the PAKE or other appropriate protocol. As such this claim is also believed to be in condition for allowance.
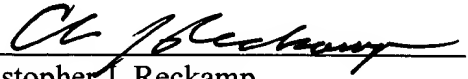
The other independent claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance as having additional novel non-obvious subject matter. For example, claim 5 requires, among other things, retrieving stored inquiry data for presentation based on received entity identification data. The cited portion of the Collins reference appears to be silent as to any such inquiry data that is presented, for example, to a user based on received entity identification data or receiving shared authentication data in response to the presented inquiry data and combining this with previously received authentication data.

In addition, claim 6 adds additional novel non-obvious subject matter as there are three processors described each performing specific functionality not described or discussed in the Collins reference. Accordingly, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

As to claims 11, 13, 15 and 16, Applicants respectfully reassert the remarks made above with respect to claims 1, 3, 4 and 5.

3

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
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